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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/074,377	
	Filing Date	February 11, 2002	
	First Named Inventor	Masafumi Okuma	
	Art Unit	2839	
	Examiner Name	Chandrika Prasad	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	12	Attorney Docket Number	1-15682

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	MARSHALL & MELHORN L.L.C.
Signature	Donald A. Schurr
Date	January 6, 2004

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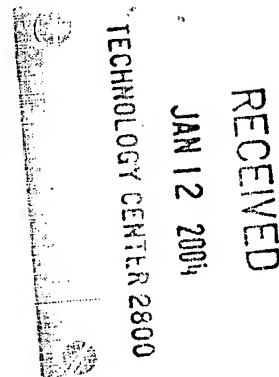
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. :	10/074,377	Confirmation No. :	5528
Applicant :	MASAFUMI OKUMA, et al.		
Filed :	February 11, 2002		
TC/A.U. :	2839		
Examiner :	CHANDRIKA PRASAD		
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Customer No. :	001678		

January 6, 2004

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



AMENDMENT

Honorable Sir:

Responsive to the Examiner's Office Action of October 6, 2003, applicants have carefully studied the references cited by the Examiner and the Examiner's comments relative thereto.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.